

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2304

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

U.S. MISSION BERLIN 393

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

EUCOM VAIHINGEN

USAREUR HEIDELBERG

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EUCOM AND USAREUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS , GW

SUBJ: SARTRE SEEKS SUPPORT FOR BADDER- MEINHOF GANG

1. SUMMARY.

FRENCH PHILOSOPHER AND POLITICAL ACTIVIST JEAN-PAUL
SARTRE VISITED IMPRISONED WEST GERMAN ANARCHIST-
TERRORIST LEADER ANDREAS BAADER IN STUTTGART PRISON ON
4 DECEMBER. WITH FORMER RADICAL STUDENT LEADER DANIEL
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COHN-BENDIT AS INTERPRETER, SARTRE USED PRESS CON-

REFERENCE FOLLOWING VISIT TO URGE INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUALS TO JOIN FIGHT DEFEND BAADER-MEINHOF GANG. NOBEL PRIZE WINNER HEINRICH BOELL QUOTED IN PRESS AS WILLING JOIN SUCH GROUP. SARTRE QUOTES BAADER SAYING GERMAN REVOLUTIONARIES SEEKING CLOSER THIRD WORLD REVOLUTIONARY GROUP TIES, PARTICULARLY IN ARAB STATES AND SOUTH AMERICA, IN FIGHT AGAINST US AND DRAMATICALLY CLAIMED BAADER BEING SUBJECTED FROM MENTAL TORTURE. LOCAL MEDIA FAIRLY UNANIMOUS IN REJECTING SARTRE ALLEGATIONS AND PICTURE HIM AS TOOL OF BAADER-MEINHOF LAWYERS. BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG MINISTER PRESIDENT FILBINGER CONDEMNS SARTRE ROLE. NO INCIDENTS OR DEMONSTRATIONS, END SUMMARY.

2. FRENCH PHILOSOPHER AND POLITICAL ACTIVIST JEAN-PAUL SARTRE VISITED IMPRISONED URBAN REVOLUTIONARY LEADER ANDREAS BAADER IN STUTTGART/STAMMHEIM PRISON ON 4 DECEMBER. BAADER BEING HELD PENDING SPRING TRIAL. CHARGED IN TERRORIST BOMBINGS RESULTING IN DEATHS AMERICAN SERVICEMEN AND OTHER KILLINGS AS WELL AS DAMAGE U.S. INSTALLATIONS. AFTER ONE HOUR VISIT WITH BAADER, SARTRE USED OCCASION OF PLANNED PRESS CONFERENCE, WITH ONE-TIME RADICAL STUDENT LEADER DANIEL COHN-BENDIT AS INTERPRETER, TO URGE INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUALS JOIN FIGHT DEFEND BAADER-MEINHOF GROUP. NOBEL PRIZE WINNER HEINRICH BOELL REPORTEDLY RESPONDED SAYING HE WILLING JOIN SUCH GROUP. BOELL, HOWEVER, HAD A FEW KIND WORDS FOR FRG LEGAL AND COURT SYSTEM AND KEPT OPEN POSSIBILITY GANG MEMBERS MIGHT WELL BE GUILTY AS CHARGED.

3. SARTRE AGREED TO VISIT APPARENTLY ARRANGED BY LAWYER KLAUS CROISSANT TO INFORM SELF OF CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT. ALSO STATED IT NECESSARY POLITICAL VIEWS BAADER BE KNOWN EVEN IF CONSIDERED IRRELEVANT BY SOME.

4. WHEN ASKED WHY HE VISITED BAADER INSTEAD OF MEINHOF, WHO RECENTLY TRANSFERRED WITHOUT INCIDENT TO SAME PRISON, SARTRE REPLIED GANG KNOWN AS BAADER-MEINHOF AND NOT OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAY ROUND. ALSO CLAIMED BAADER POLITICAL LEADER OF GROUP.

5. WHEN ASKED ABOUT VON DRENKMANN MURDER SARTRE SAID IT NECESSARY UNDERSTAND ONE OF BAADER-MEINHOF BELOVED COMRADES (HOLGER MEINS) HAS DIED AND HIS DEATH HAD TO BE ANSWERED.

6. SARTRE SEEMED WILLING ACT AS SPOKESMAN FOR ALLEGED BAADER

VIEWS. ACCORDING SARTRE, BAADER WANTS TO ORGANIZE THE MASSES. ALSO SEEKS CONTACTS WITH REVOLUTIONARY GROUPS IN THIRD WORLD, PARTICULARLY MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH AMERICA, FIGHTING AGAINST U.S. BAADER ALSO WANTS RID FRG OF GREAT AMERICAN INFLUENCE. BAADER VIEWS ISSUE AS CIVIL WAR AND STRUGGLE BETWEEN MASSES AND CAPITALISM.

7. SARTRE ALSO COMPLAINED IN DRAMATIC FASHION ABOUT CONDITIONS BAADER IMPRISONMENT. SAID HE BEING SUBJECTED TO FORM OF MENTAL TORTURE, KEPT IN ISOLATION, AND WITH NO CONTACT WITH OTHERS OR WITH OUTSIDE WORLD. ONLY SOUNDS HEARD BY BAADER SAID TO BE FOOTSTEPS OR WARDER BRINGING MEALS THREE TIMES DAILY. MOST PRESS AND TV COMMENTATORS QUICK TO POINT OUT THESE CHARGES FALSE. OBSERVERS NOTED BAADER IN COMFORTABLE PRIVATE CELL WITH TYPEWRITER, RADION, BOOKCASE AND AMPLE SUPPLY OF BOOKS, MAGAZINES, AND NEWSPAPERS OF OWN CHOOSING. WHILE ISOLATED IN SPECIAL WING FROM OTHER STAMMHEIM PRISONERS, BAADER PERMITTED UP TO FOUR HOURS DAILY CONTACT WITH OTHER IMPRISONED MEMBERS BAADER-MEINHOF GROUP AS WELL AS LAWYERS. OBSERVERS ALSO CALLED FOR GOVERNMENT TO MAKE MORE CONCERTED EFFORT INFORM PUBLIC CIRCUMSTANCES AND CONDITIONS OF GROUP MEMBER IMPRISONMENT.

8. BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG MINISTER PRESIDENT FILBINGER CONDEMNED SARTRE VISIT SAYING IT INSENSITIVE TO GANG'S VICTIMS. FRG INTERIOR MINISTER MAIHOF ALSO SAID SARTRE NOT IN ANY POSITION TO BE MAKING JUDGEMENTS ON FRG'S HANDLING OF BAADER-MEINHOF GANG. MAIHOFFER ALSO CRITICIZED FOR ALLOWING PERMISSION FOR VISIT TO BE GRANTED. SARTRE HIMSELF HAD EVEN SPECULATED THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE RECEIVED PERMISSION FOR SUCH A VISIT IN FRANCE.

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9. ONE NEWS STORY ALSO REPORTS VIEW OF CSU LEADER STRAUSS THAT THE BAADER-MEINHOF GANG HAS DECLARED WAR ON A LEGAL STATE AND NO LEGAL MEANS EXIST TO FIGHT TYPE OF WAR ALREADY BEGUN. IF DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL FORCES UNABLE LEGALLY DEFEND SELVES, CALLS FOR "STRONG MAN" AND RADICAL SOLUTIONS WILL BECOME LOUD.

10. DESPITE POTENTIAL FOR DEMONSTRATIONS AND VIOLENCE IN CONNECTION SARTRE VISIT AND PRESS CONFERENCE, NO INCIDENTS REPORTED.

11. AUTHORITIES NOW HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT EARLIER CONCLUSION THAT HARD CORE BAADER-MEINHOF SUPPORT HAD BEEN CRUSHED. POSSIBILITY ALSO EXISTS OTHER DISSIDENT RADICAL GROUPS USING BAADER-MEINHOF SITUATION FOR OWN ENDS.

12. COMMENT.

SARTRE COMMENTS VAGUE AND ILL-INFORMED AND LIKELY HE SAID MOSTLY WHAT BAADER-MEINHOF LAWYERS WANTED. HIS VISIT AND COMMENTS HAVE INCREASED LOCAL TENSIONS AND SECURITY CONCERNS CONNECTION IMPENDING TRIAL. VISIT ALSO SEEM AS ATTEMPT SHIFT FOCUS FROM VON DRENKMANN MURDER TO CONDITIONS IMPRISONMENT BAADER-MEINHOF GROUP AND RENEWED ATTEMPT PORTRAY IMPRISONED GANG MEMBERS AS POLITICALLY PERSECUTED RATHER THAN CHARGED WITH CRIMINAL ACTS. ATTEMPT ALSO MADE TO DISCREDIT FRG LEGAL AND COURT SYSTEM. ASSOCIATION OF " NAME INTELLECTUALS" WITH BAADER- MEINHOF CAUSE ALSO LIKELY TO CREATE FURTHER DIFFICULTIES. TRIAL TO TAKE PLACE IN SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED FACILITY IN STAMMHEIM PRISON RATHER THAN IN LOCAL COURT (ACROSS STREET FROM CONSULATE GENERAL) AS WOULD NORMALLY BE DONE. AUTHORITIES PLANNING HAVE ADDITIONAL 150 MEN FROM SPECIAL POLICE UNITS STATIONED IN STUTTGART DURATION BAADER-MEINHOF TRIAL. SOME U.S. MILITARY QUARTERS MAY BE USED TO ACCOMODATE THESE FORCES FOR LIMITED PERIOD. JENKINS

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